

Editor's Note: Winter 2015

Before working on this issue I never realized how much enjoying food requires crossing different kinds of boundaries. The onion must give up its layers, the water's surface must bend for the ladle, and even the worm must break the apple's skin. Each has its tiny Rubicon. And so it is with relationships, memory, desire and many of those sensuous human experiences which enact irrevocable changes. Naturally, everyone hopes for growth in those moments, and in the following pages are a plethora of voices wrestling with those same hopes and boundaries. With imaginative and diverse takes on the theme of food, the authors and artists represented in this issue raise tough question about the human condition: What consumes us, and what do we consume? How are we nourished? What sustains a memory?

Of course these stories, poems and essays aren't just about contemplation, but also about revelry. Whether at the level of syntax, form, or narration, these selections know how to have a good time. On one end of the proverbial table one finds a poetic "essay" on the Happy Meal, and on the other end luscious prose about eating cherries for the first time. Both metaphorically and literally I've gained weight while editing this issue. It was worth every pound.

I am also overjoyed to feature the work of Connie Imboden, whose imaginative photography and process made me rethink what was possible when it comes to art. Spending time with her evocative work invigorated my senses and reminded me how necessary it is to press into those experiences that will leave one changed. Ultimately, that's how I want to approach my interactions with art, literature, and food, with a full bodied, unhesitant presence.

I hope you've come hungry.

Steven Leyva